

EX PART 101 ATE FILED

11/15/2002

96-98

ORIGINAL

Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Powell:

I ~~am~~ writing to you today in regard to an issue of importance to my company.

It is my hope that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will take a look at regulating prices on special access services once again. These are the links provided to customers – often business customers like me – who want high-capacity lines for data and internet ~~as well as~~ local and long distance telephone services.

The normal market forces aren't working when it comes to special access services. The deregulation of special access was done to the advantage of the Bell companies, and the Bell companies only. Once the price caps were removed, the Bell companies immediately started to impose high rates for special access services on both customers and competitors.

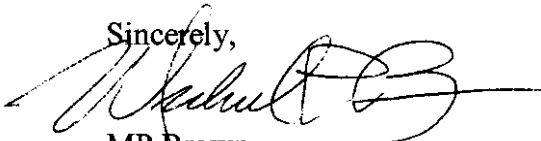
The most telling statistic is found in the profits the Bells have realized ever since special access was deregulated: Annually, the Bells are \$5 billion in profits above the profits reported just two years ago. Prices for other telecom services have gone down all across the industry, except for in special access. And without competition, customers like me have no choice but to pay the higher fees.

It is simply unfair for large business customers to be forced to pay outrageous fees for special access service because the Bell monopolies don't want to open their market to competitors.

Business customers have no choice but to either use the Bells' overpriced services, or switch to a competitor who will be charged outrageous prices for access to the network. Either way, business consumers lose.

I urge you to reinstate the regulations on special access services.

Sincerely,



MP Brown  
Director Telecommunications  
West Corporation

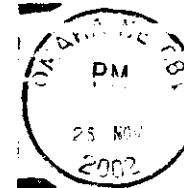
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